

THE FIRST LOVE STORY: ADAM, EVE, AND US BY BRUCE FEILER

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*New York Times Bestselling Author of
Walking the Bible and Abraham*

Bruce Feiler

The First
Love Story

Adam, Eve,
and Us



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Review

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From the New York Times bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* and *Abraham* comes a revelatory journey across four continents and 4,000 years exploring how Adam and Eve introduced the idea of love into the world, and how they continue to shape our deepest feelings about relationships, family, and togetherness.

Since antiquity, one story has stood at the center of every conversation about men and women. One couple has been the battleground for human relationships and sexual identity. That couple is Adam and Eve. Yet instead of celebrating them, history has blamed them for bringing sin, deceit, and death into the world.

In this fresh retelling of their story, New York Times columnist and PBS host Bruce Feiler travels from the Garden of Eden in Iraq to the Sistine Chapel in Rome, from John Milton's London to Mae West's Hollywood, discovering how Adam and Eve should be hailed as exemplars of a long-term, healthy, resilient relationship. At a time of discord and fear over the strength of our social fabric, Feiler shows how history's first couple can again be role models for unity, forgiveness, and love.

Containing all the humor, insight, and wisdom that have endeared Bruce Feiler to readers around the world, *The First Love Story* is an unforgettable journey that restores Adam and Eve to their rightful place as central figures in our culture's imagination and reminds us that even our most familiar stories still have the ability to surprise, inspire, and guide us today.

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Features

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Most helpful customer reviews

37 of 42 people found the following review helpful.

An amazing work in every regard.

By Peter Wilkes

This book works at every level. Meticulous in his research, eloquent in his approach, and profound in his philosophy, Bruce Feiler has taken this, the most necessary of all our myths—distorted for centuries by misinformation and society’s reinforcement of patriarchal dogma—and turned it on its head.

His timing could not have been better. Approaching his last years, Joseph Campbell asserted that our old myths—the metaphors for the spiritual potentialities of our lives— were no longer operative, and effective new ones had not arisen to replace them. Today, Mr. Feiler has, in effect, given rise to a new Creation myth, one which goes to the core of every relationship we have as humans on this planet. Reading this book will change your life. It could also change the world. My highest recommendation.

Peter Wilkes, author *Lucifer* *Eve* and *Adam*: the absolutely true and completely honest story of Creation

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Dissappointed

By Curt Schreiber

From the piece that I read on this book in the Wall Street Journal, I was expecting something more substantial. While the author researched a lot of interesting facts and included some interviews with people of diverse opinions, I didn't find it very enlightening on a real love relationship between Adam and Eve. It felt more like a travel journal of the author's search through history for something to write about them as a couple than an investigation into where their strength in love came from.

36 of 40 people found the following review helpful.

An Unforgettable, Practical Read For All

By Manhattan Reader

I started reading Bruce Feiler's new book with little idea how engrossing it would be. "The First Love Story" takes some of the oldest ideas of the Bible and our faith—love, compassion, justice—and makes them incredibly alive and relevant. You may think you know the Adam and Eve story, but probably you don't really know it at all. That's what I discovered about myself. I also like that while this book is page turning history that reads like a novel, it is also incredibly practical in telling you what you can do in your own life to recapture the values of this first love story.

Some of the things I enjoyed the most were:

-- His introduction that makes you understand why he cares so much about this story. He writes in a very honest and direct way. It's really welcoming.

-- He spends a lot of time talking about how this story is relevant for our children, in particular how it matters to what we tell them about love and values and religion. You can see he really cares through the tales of his own experiences and his own family. This is a really honest piece of the book. It's hard to forget.

-- The history is just great. It's not just Bible history, which is pretty fascinating, but he writes about people like Susan B. Anthony or Joan Didion in a very compelling way too.

Overall, this book is worth the time. It's a fast, fun read and will give you a lot to think about. I liked it as much as I liked his *Walking the Bible* book.

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